	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/717,332	JOSEPHSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph P. Hirl	2129	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *January 23, 2006*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *122-177*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

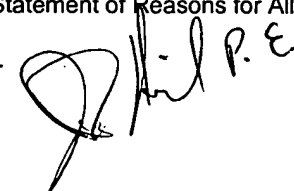   * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

Examiner's Amendment/Reasons for Allowance

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the Claims

2.   The subject claims are amended as follows:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

122.   (Previously Presented) A computerized system for exploring a set of decision

alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ wherein each of said decision alternatives in said set is

evaluated according to at least two criteria C_1 and C_2, said system comprising:

(a)   a first computer program that produces a subset from said set of

decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ using a filter and values for said at least two

criteria C_1 and C_2 wherein said filter produces said subset by:

(i)   comparing decision alternatives in said set of decision alternatives

$D_1 - D_n$ according to said values for said at least two criteria C_1

and C_2;

(ii)   removing from said set of decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ decisions

alternatives that are Pareto dominated according to said values

for said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2; and

(iii)   retaining in said set of decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ only decisions

alternatives that are Pareto optimal according to said values for

said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2; and

(b)   a second computer program, in communication with said first computer

program, that presents in a scatterplot said subset of said set of decision

alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ produced by said filter, wherein each axis of said

scatterplot represents a criterion of said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2

used in filtering said decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$.

123. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 122 further

comprising a third computer program for obtaining said set of decision

alternatives from a database.

124. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 122 further

comprising a third computer program for producing said set of decision

alternatives using a functional and compositional modeling language to produce

simulations of behaviors of said decision alternatives.

125. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 124 wherein said

simulations of behaviors are based on interactions among entity components

wherein said interactions are described using arithmetic, algebraic, differential,

or logical formalisms.

126. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 122 wherein said

filter of said first computer program is selected from the group consisting of

classical filters, toleranced filters, strict filters, superstrict filters, selective

superstrict filters, discernable difference toleranced filters, two pass toleranced

filters, and onionskin filters.

127. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 122 wherein said

second computer program is adapted to link scatterplots such that decision

alternatives selected within a first scatterplot are distinguished from other

decision alternatives in at least one other scatterplot.

128. (Amended) The computerized system of claim 122 wherein said second

computer program presents said subset of said set of decision alternatives

produced by said filter in a multi-attribute display comprising a one-dimensional

scatterplot for ~~each of said plurality of~~ said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2.

129. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 122 wherein said

second computer program is adapted to narrow to a selected subset decision

alternatives displayed in said at least one scatterplot according to secondary

criteria selected by a user.

130. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 122 wherein

decision alternatives selected within said scatterplot are retained in an

examination set

131. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 130 wherein said

second computer program is adapted to create unions, intersections, and

subsets of examination sets in said scatterplot.

132. (Previously Presented) A computerized method for exploring a set of evaluated

decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ wherein each of said decision alternatives in said

set is evaluated according to at least two criteria C_1 and C_2, said method

comprising:

(a)   producing a subset from said set of decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ by

applying a multi-criterial filter to values for said at least two criteria C_1

and C_2 wherein said multi-criterial filter produces said subset by:

(i)   comparing said values for said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 for

two decision alternatives D_a and D_b;

(ii)   removing D_b from said set of decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ if

$C_1(D_a)$ is superior or equal to $C_1(D_b)$ and $C_2(D_a)$ is superior or

equal to $C_2(D_b)$, and either $C_1(D_a)$ is superior to $C_1(D_b)$, or $C_2(D_a)$ is superior $C_2(D_b)$, wherein superiority for each criterion is determined according to whether larger values for C or smaller values for C are preferred; and

(iii) repeating steps (i) and (ii) for said set of decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ until no additional decision alternatives are removed by application of steps (i) and (ii); and

(b) displaying graphical representations and enabling examination of decision alternatives in said subset of decision alternatives according to said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 by:

(i) generating a scatterplot wherein each axis is chosen from said set of at said least two criteria C_1 and C_2;

(ii) wherein each point on each of said scatterplots represents a decision alternative that survived said multi-criterial filter for producing said subset of decision alternatives.

133. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 132 wherein said set of evaluated decision alternatives comprises evaluated decision alternatives retrieved from a database.

134. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 132 wherein said set of evaluated decision alternatives comprises generated decision alternatives.

135. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 134 wherein said

step of generating said plurality of decision alternatives comprises using a

functional and compositional modeling language to produce simulations of

behaviors to evaluate said decision alternatives according to at least two criteria

C_1 and C_2.

136.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 135 wherein said

simulations of behaviors are based on interactions among entity components

wherein said interactions are described using arithmetic, algebraic, differential,

or logical formalisms.

137.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 132 wherein

applying a multi-criterial filter comprises applying a multi-criterial filter algorithm

selected from the group consisting of classical filter algorithms, toleranced filter

algorithms, strict filter algorithms, superstrict filter algorithms, selective

superstrict filter algorithms, discernable difference toleranced filter algorithms,

two pass toleranced filter algorithms, and onionskin filter algorithms.

138.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 132 wherein the

step of creating a scatterplot for each of said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2

comprises creating a two-dimensional scatterplot wherein each axis of said

scatterplot represents a criterion of said decision alternatives.

139.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 132 wherein the

step of creating a scatterplot for each of said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2

comprises creating a one-dimensional scatterplot with an axis that represents a

criterion of said evaluated decision alternatives.

140. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 132 wherein said displaying graphical representations and enabling examination of decision alternatives in said subset of decision alternatives according to said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 comprises presenting decision alternatives in a multi-attribute display comprising one-dimensional scatterplots wherein each scatterplot comprises an axis that represents a criterion of said decision alternatives.

141. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 140 further comprising linking said scatterplots such that decision alternatives selected within a first scatterplot are distinguished from other decision alternatives in at least one other scatterplot.

142. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 132 further comprising a method for discarding from said scatterplots selected decision alternatives.

143. (Amended) A computerized system for exploring decision alternatives, comprising:

    (a)   a first computer program for producing a set of evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ by:

        (i)   acquiring a plurality of decision alternatives; and

        (ii)   evaluating each of said plurality of decision alternatives according to a plurality of criteria $C_1 - C_n C_m$ to produce said set of evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$; and

    (b)   a second computer program in communication with said first computer

program for producing a subset from said set of evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ by applying a multi-criterial filter to values for said plurality of criteria $C_1 - C_m$ wherein said multi-criterial filter produces said subset by:

(i)   comparing said values for said plurality of criteria $C_1 - C_m$ for two decision alternatives D_a and D_b;

(ii)   removing D_b from said set of decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ if $C_i(D_a)$ is superior or equal to $C_i(D_b)$ for every criterion C_i in $C_1 - C_m$, and $C_j(D_a)$ is strictly superior to $C_j(D_b)$ for at least one criterion C_j in $C_1 - C_m$, and $C_k (D_b)$ is not superior to $C_k (D_a)$ for any criterion C_k in $C_1 - C_m$, wherein superiority for each criterion C in $C_1 - C_m$ is determined according to whether larger values for C or smaller values for C are preferred; and

(iii)   repeating steps (i) and (ii) for said set of evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ until no additional evaluated decision alternatives are removed by application of steps (i) and (ii); and

~~(b)~~(c) a ~~second~~ third computer program, in communication with said ~~first~~ second computer program, for displaying graphical representations and enabling examination of evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ by creating one dimensional scatterplots:

(i)   wherein each scatterplot corresponds to a criterion C of said plurality of criteria $C_1 - C_m$ ~~evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$~~;

(ii)   wherein each point on said scatterplot represents an evaluated

decision alternative D positioned according to its value based on

criterion C; and

(ii)   wherein said scatterplots are linked so that evaluated decision

alternatives selected within a first scatterplot are highlighted within

at least oneeach other scatterplot.

144. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 143 wherein said

first computer program acquires a plurality of decision alternatives by retrieving

said plurality of decision alternatives from a database.

145. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 143 wherein said

first computer program acquires a plurality of decision alternatives by

generating said plurality of decision alternatives.

146. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 145 wherein said

first computer program generates said plurality of decision alternatives using a

functional and compositional modeling language to produce simulations of

behaviors.

147. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 146 wherein said

simulations of behaviors are based on interactions among entity components

wherein said interactions are described using arithmetic, algebraic, differential,

or logical formalisms.

148. (Amended) The computerized system of claim 143 wherein said second third

computer program applies secondary criteria selected by a user to further

narrow said evaluated decision alternatives.

149. (Amended) The computerized method of claim 143 wherein said ~~second~~-third
computer program supports discarding <u>selected evaluated decision alternatives</u>
from said ~~scatterplots selected~~<u>set of</u> evaluated decision alternatives.

150. (Amended) A computerized method for exploring decision alternatives,
comprising:

    (a)   producing a set of evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ by:

        (i)   acquiring a plurality of decision alternatives; and

        (ii)   evaluating each of said plurality of decision alternatives according
to a plurality of criteria $C_1 - $ ~~C_n~~C_m to produce said set of evaluated
decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$; and;

    <u>(b)   producing a subset from said set of evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 -$
D_n by applying a multi-criterial filter to values for said plurality of criteria
$C_1 - C_m$ wherein said multi-criterial filter produces said subset by:</u>

        <u>(i)   comparing said values for said plurality of criteria $C_1 - C_m$ for two
decision alternatives D_a and D_b;</u>

        <u>(ii)   removing D_b from said set of decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ if $C_i(D_a)$
is superior or equal to $C_i(D_b)$ for every criterion C_i in $C_1 - C_m$, and
$C_j(D_a)$ is strictly superior to $C_j(D_b)$ for at least one criterion C_j in C_1
$- C_m$, and $C_k(D_b)$ is not superior to $C_k(D_a)$ for any criterion C_k in
$C_1 - C_m$, wherein superiority for each criterion C in $C_1 - C_m$ is
determined according to whether larger values for C or smaller</u>

values for C are preferred; and

(iii) repeating steps (i) and (ii) for said set of evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ until no additional evaluated decision alternatives are removed by application of steps (i) and (ii); and

(b)(c) displaying graphical representations and enabling examination of said evaluated decision alternatives $D_1 - D_n$ by creating one dimensional scatterplots:

(i) wherein each scatterplot corresponds to one of said evaluation criteria criterion C of said plurality of criteria $C_1 - C_m$ decision alternatives;

(ii) wherein each point on said scatterplot represents an evaluated decision alternative D positioned according to its value based on criterion C; and

(ii) wherein said scatterplots are linked so that evaluated decision alternatives selected within a first scatterplot are distinguished from evaluated decision alternatives in at least one each other scatterplot.

151. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 150 wherein the step of acquiring a plurality of decision alternatives comprises retrieving said plurality of decision alternatives from a database.

152. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 150 wherein the step of acquiring a plurality of decision alternatives comprises generating said

plurality of decision alternatives.

153. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 152 wherein the step of generating said plurality of decision alternatives comprises using a functional and compositional modeling language to produce simulations of behaviors for said decision alternatives.

154. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 153 wherein said simulations of behaviors are based on interactions among entity components wherein said interactions are described using arithmetic, algebraic, differential, or logical formalisms.

155. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 150 further comprising discarding from said scatterplots selected decision alternatives.

156. (Amended) A computerized system for exploring decision alternatives according to multiple attributes comprising:

    (a)   a seeker software process for producing a set of evaluated decision alternatives D_1 - D_n by:

        (i)   acquiring a plurality of decision alternatives; and

        (ii)   evaluating each of said plurality of decision alternatives according to a plurality of criteria C_1 - ~~C_n~~$\underline{C_m}$ to produce said evaluated decision alternatives D_1 - D_n;

    (b)   a filter software process to produce a subset from said set of decision alternatives D_1 – D_n by applying a multi-criterial filter to values for at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 wherein said multi-criterial filter produces said

subset by:

(i)   comparing said values for said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 for two evaluated decision alternatives D_a and D_b;

(ii)   removing D_b from said set of evaluated decision alternatives D_1 – D_n if $C_1(D_a)$ is superior or equal to $C_1(D_b)$ and $C_2(D_a)$ is superior or equal to $C_2(D_b)$, and either $C_1(D_a)$ is superior to $C_1(D_b)$, or $C_2(D_a)$ is superior $C_2(D_b)$, wherein superiority for each criterion is determined according to whether larger values for C or smaller values for C are preferred; and

(iii)   repeating steps (i) and (ii) for said set of evaluated decision alternatives D_1 – D_n until no additional evaluated decision alternatives are removed by application of steps (i) and (ii) and remaining evaluated decision alternatives are trade-offs with respect to each other; and

(c)   a viewer software process for displaying graphical representations and enabling examination of evaluated decision alternatives in said subset according to said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 by:

(i)   creating at least one scatterplot wherein each point on said scatterplot represents an evaluated decision alternative D that survived said multi-criterial filter for producing said subset of evaluated decision alternatives; and

(ii)   wherein each evaluated decision alternative in said scatterplot is

from said subset of evaluated decision alternatives containing only evaluated decision alternatives that are trade-offs with respect to each other.

157. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 156 wherein said seeker software process acquires a plurality of decision alternatives by retrieving said plurality of decision alternatives from a database.

158. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 156 wherein said seeker software process acquires a plurality of decision alternatives by generating said plurality of decision alternatives.

159. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 158 wherein said seeker software process generates said plurality of decision alternatives using a functional and compositional modeling language to produce simulations of behaviors.

160. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 159 wherein said simulations of behaviors are based on interactions among entity components wherein said interactions are described using arithmetic, algebraic, differential, or logical formalisms.

161. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 156 wherein said filter software process applies a multi-criterial filter selected from the group consisting of classical filter algorithms, toleranced filter algorithms, strict filter algorithms, superstrict filter algorithms, selective superstrict filter algorithms, discernable difference toleranced filter algorithms, two pass toleranced filter

algorithms, and onionskin filter algorithms.

162. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 156 wherein said viewer software process creates said at least one scatterplot by creating a two-dimensional scatterplot wherein each axis of said scatterplot represents a criterion C of said decision alternatives.

163. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 156 wherein said viewer software process creates said at least one scatterplot by creating a one-dimensional scatterplot with an axis that represents a criterion C of said decision alternatives.

164. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 156 wherein said viewer software process displays graphical representations and enables examination of decision alternatives in said subset of decision alternatives according to said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 by presenting decision alternatives in a multi-attribute display comprising one-dimensional scatterplots wherein each scatterplot comprises an axis that represents a criterion C of said decision alternatives.

165. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 164 wherein said viewer software process links said scatterplots such that decision alternatives selected within a first scatterplot are distinguished from decision alternatives in at least one other scatterplot.

166. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 156 said viewer software process supports discarding from said scatterplots selected decision

alternatives.

167. (Amended) A computerized method for exploring decision alternatives according to multiple attributes comprising:

    (a)   producing a set of evaluated decision alternatives D_1 - D_n by:

        (i)   acquiring a plurality of decision alternatives; and

        (ii)   evaluating each of said plurality of decision alternatives according to a plurality of criteria C_1 - C_n C_m to produce said evaluated decision alternatives D_1 - D_n; and

    (b)   a filter software process to produce a subset from said set of decision alternatives D_1 – D_n by applying a multi-criterial filter to values for at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 wherein said multi-criterial filter produces said subset by:

        (i)   comparing said values for said at least two criteria C_1 and C_2 for two evaluated decision alternatives D_a and D_b;

        (ii)   removing D_b from said set of evaluated decision alternatives D_1 – D_n if $C_1(D_a)$ is superior or equal to $C_1(D_b)$ and $C_2(D_a)$ is superior or equal to $C_2(D_b)$, and either $C_1(D_a)$ is superior to $C_1(D_b)$, or $C_2(D_a)$ is superior $C_2(D_b)$, wherein superiority for each criterion is determined according to whether larger values for C or smaller values for C are preferred; and

        (iii)   repeating steps (i) and (ii) for said set of evaluated decision alternatives D_1 – D_n until no additional evaluated decision

alternatives are removed by application of steps (i) and (ii) and remaining evaluated decision alternatives are trade-offs with respect to each other; and

(c)   displaying graphical representations and enabling examination of decision alternatives in said subset of decision alternatives according to said at least two criteria by:

      (i)   creating at least one scatterplot wherein each point on said scatterplot represents an evaluated decision alternative D that survived said multi-criterial filter algorithm for producing said subset of decision alternatives; and

      (ii)   wherein each evaluated decision alternative in said scatterplot is from said subset of evaluated decision alternatives containing only evaluated decision alternatives that are trade-offs with respect to each other.

168.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 167 wherein said step of acquiring a plurality of decision alternatives comprises retrieving said plurality of decision alternatives from a database.

169.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 167 wherein said step of acquiring a plurality of decision alternatives comprises generating said plurality of decision alternatives.

170.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 169 wherein said step of generating said plurality of decision alternatives comprises using a

functional and compositional modeling language to produce simulations of behaviors for said decision alternatives.

171. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 170 wherein said simulations of behaviors are based on interactions among entity components wherein said interactions are described using arithmetic, algebraic, differential, or logical formalisms.

172. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 167 wherein the step of applying a multi-criterial filter comprises applying a multi-criterial filter algorithm selected from the group consisting of classical filter algorithms, toleranced filter algorithms, strict filter algorithms, superstrict filter algorithms, selective superstrict filter algorithms, discernable difference toleranced filter algorithms, two pass toleranced filter algorithms, and onionskin filter algorithms.

173. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 167 wherein the step of creating said at least one scatterplot comprises creating a two-dimensional scatterplot wherein each axis of said scatterplot represents a criterion of said evaluated decision alternatives.

174. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 167 wherein the step of creating said at least one scatterplot comprises creating a one-dimensional scatterplot with an axis that represents a criterion C of said evaluated decision alternatives.

175. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 167 wherein said displaying graphical representations and enabling examination of decision

alternatives in said subset of decision alternatives according to said at least two criteria comprises presenting decision alternatives in a multi-attribute display comprising one-dimensional scatterplots wherein each scatterplot comprises an axis that represents a criterion of said evaluated decision alternatives.

176. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 175 further comprising linking said scatterplots such that decision alternatives selected within a first scatterplot are distinguished from decision alternatives in at least one other scatterplot.

177. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 167 further comprising discarding from said scatterplots selected decision alternatives.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given a fax dated March 28,

2006 from Carol G. Stovsky.

Reasons for Allowance

3.   The cited art taken alone or in combination fails to teach the claims invention of

exploring a set of decision alternatives wherein each of the decision alternatives are

evaluated in relation of at least two criteria where a filter establishes a decision

alternative subset by comparing decision alternative values for at least two criteria and

removing such decision alternatives that are not considered in preference by a

unanimous consensus and presenting such subset of decision alternatives in a

scatterplot with axis relating to the decision criteria.

The closest prior art (Amado, USPN 5,701,400) teaches a method and apparatus

for applying if-then-else rules to data sets in a relational data base and generating from

the results of application of said rules a database of diagnostics linked to said sets to

aid executive analysis of financial data. Amado does not teach multi-criteria

functionality screening decision alternatives to a level of consensus in the process of a

subset of decision alternatives and displaying such subset on a scatterplot.

Correspondence Information

4.   Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure

should be directed to the Primary Examiner, Joseph P. Hirl, whose telephone number is

(571) 272-3685. The Examiner can be reached on Monday – Thursday from

6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

Examiner's supervisor, David R. Vincent can be reached at (571) 272-3080.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,

Washington, D. C. 20231;

Hand delivered to:

Receptionist,

Customer Service Window,

Randolph Building,

401 Dulany Street,

Alexandria, Virginia 22313,

(located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building);

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

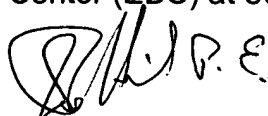published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have any questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Joseph P. Hirl
Primary Examiner
March 29, 2006